

Network Reliability

The reliability and interoperability of the telecommunications network has been a priority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for many years. The Network Reliability and Interoperability Council (NRIC) is a Federal Advisory Committee that was first chartered in 1993. The NRIC gives telecommunications industry leaders the opportunity to provide recommendations to the FCC and to the industry to help:

- Ensure the security and sustainability of the public telecommunications networks throughout the United States;
- Ensure the availability of adequate public telecommunications capacity during events or periods of exceptional stress due to natural disaster, terrorist attacks, or similar occurrences; and
- Facilitate the rapid restoration of telecommunications services in the event of widespread or major disruptions in the provision of telecommunications services.

NRIC is composed of executive-level representatives from across the communications landscape including wireline, wireless, CATV, satellite, Internet service providers, and their equipment suppliers.

Homeland Security Efforts

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell rechartered the NRIC in January 2002 to address the threats to network security and infrastructure caused by terror attacks and natural disasters. As a result, NRIC VI focused on fortifying the physical and cyber network infrastructure against such threats and hastening the restoration of network services. NRIC VI has developed associated best practices to be deployed by the industry on a voluntary basis.

Public Safety Efforts

Chairman Powell rechartered NRIC in January 2004 to include end-to-end reliability and interoperability of emergency services networks and services. NRIC VII will address near-term E911 issues, like accuracy requirements for location information, and longer-term issues, like migration of emergency services communications to IP-based architectures.

For more information, visit www.NRIC.org.

This document is for consumer education purposes only and is not intended to affect any proceeding or cases involving this subject matter or related issues.

